

REMARKS

Claims 1-6, 8-13 and 24 are canceled herein. No new matter is presented.

Entry of the Amendment after final rejection is proper since the Amendment only involves the cancellation of claims 1-6, 8-13 and 24.

Accordingly, upon entry of the Amendment, which is respectfully requested, claims 14-23 will be all of the claims pending in the application.

Claims 1-6 and 8-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Miyake et al in view of Kitson et al (6,858,359 B2).

Claims 1-6, 8-13 and 24 are canceled herein, thereby rendering the rejection as to these claims moot.

Regarding independent claim 14 and the claims 15-23 dependent thereon, Applicants submit that the cited references do not teach or suggest all elements of the claimed invention.

Specifically, at least the requirement that the image recording layer also contains a water-insoluble and alkali-soluble resin selected from the group consisting of a polyamide resin, an epoxy resin, an acetal resin, an acrylic resin, a methacrylic resin, a styrene based resin and a urethane resin is not taught or suggested by Miyake et al and Kitson et al, whether taken alone or in combination.

In this regard, Applicants note that the Examiner had been relying on Kawamura previously for the requirement in claim 14 that the image recording layer also contains a water-insoluble and alkali-soluble resin selected from the group consisting of a polyamide resin, an epoxy resin, an acetal resin, an acrylic resin, a methacrylic resin, a styrene based resin and a urethane resin. However, as noted by the Examiner in paragraph 1 on page 2 of the present

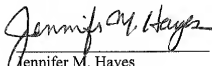
Office Action, the reference to Kawamura is removed. The remaining art neither teaches nor suggests the invention of claim 14 and the claims dependent thereon as stated above. Thus, the present invention is not rendered obvious by the cited references.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the §103 rejection.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,


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